

Puncturevine, Bullhorns, Goathead, Sandbur *Tribulus terrestris* L.

Identification:

Puncturevine is a summer annual that spreads (up to 10') from a central root and forms a "mat". Leaves are hairy and divided into 4-8 pairs of oblong leaflets. Usually emerges in late April or May with warmer weather – continuing on until frost. Yellow flowers appear as early as 3 weeks after seedlings first emerge, with viable fruits and seed 1-2 weeks later. Fruits consist of 5 sections which, at maturity, break into tack-like structures with sharp, sometimes curving spines. Puncturevine is generally found on disturbed areas including driveways, roadsides, and parking lots.

Potential Damage:

One plant in a California study produced over 576,000 fruits. With an average of 4 seeds per fruit that is over 1 million seeds per plant! Seeds may remain dormant in soil for up to 5 years. This weed is a nuisance; it can flatten vehicle tires, it poses a hazard to people in public use areas, and it may possibly injure wildlife.

Control and Prevention:

Take care not to drive or walk thru infested areas. This could put vehicle tires at risk. Stop and inspect vehicle between patrol units. MARK SITE on map and provide to Refuge Operations Specialist upon return from field. Puncturevine is a Class B noxious weed in Washington state and land owners/managers are legally required to prevent the spread of this plant.

Current Status on the Hanford Reach National Monument:

Puncturevine has been documented on the Wahluke unit north of Highway 24. One plant was noted near gates 106 and 118 of ALE. Pulling and spraying these plants is important to prevent spread. Be especially cognizant not to drive through a population of Puncturevine and continue to drive spreading the plant into new areas. Please check vehicles regularly.

